

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 270980

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 8646 SENT SECSTATE NOV 2.

QUOTE: S E C R E T GENEVA 8646

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJ: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: SMITH'S OFF-THE-RECORD

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT WHICH ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE
SENT TO NEWSWEEK OFFICES IN NEW YORK GIVING ACCOUNT OF
HIS OFF-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW WITH SMITH MORNING OF
NOVEMBER 2.

BEGIN TEXT:

SAW SMITH OFF THE RECORD BEFORE TODAY'S SESSION AND HE
MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

FIRSTLY -- HE WILL SAY THIS AFTERNOON THAT A DATE FOR
INDEPENDENCE HAS ALREADY BEEN SET UNDER THE KISSINGER

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PLAN -- I.E., "WITHIN TWO YEARS" -- AND THAT IT WILL BE

UP TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE TO SET A SPECIFIC DATE. THE FIRST ITEM, THEREFORE, IS THE CREATION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

SECONDLY -- IF THERE IS NO AGREEMENT IN GENEVA -- AND HE WILL GIVE IT A FEW WEEKS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE -- HE WILL BEGIN TO APPLY THE KISSINGER PLAN UNILATERALLY WITH THE AFRICANS WHO ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE -- " AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF THEM." HE IS THINKING SPECIFICALLY OF THE NOT INSIGNIFICANT AFRICAN MIDDLE CLASS THAT KNOWS IT WILL BE THE FIRST TO SUFFER -- OR EVEN DISAPPEAR -- IF MUGABE AND ZIPA COME TO POWER. SMITH SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGES FROM SOME OF THE AFRICANS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THAT THEY HAD TO MAKE EXTREMIST STATEMENTS BECAUSE OF ZIPA INTIMIDATION BUT THAT THEY BASICALLY AGREED WITH THE KISSINGER PLAN AND WERE WILLING TO GO AHEAD WITH IT IF THIS CONFERENCE FAILS. I HAVE NO WAY OF DETERMINING THE ACCURACY OF HIS CLAIM.

THIRDLY -- HE IS CONFIDENT THAT IF THE CONFERENCE DOES NOT PRODUCE AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THEN GOES AHEAD ON HIS OWN HE WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA -- AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS, TOO.

FOURTHLY -- THE CURRENT RHODESIAN STRIKES INTO MOZAMBIQUE ARE DESIGNED TO DISRUPT ZIPA PLANS TO CREATE FAVORABLE MILITARY HEADLINES DURING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

FIFTHLY -- HE PLANS TO RETURN TO GENEVA ONCE MORE EVEN IF THE CONFERENCE APPEARS TO BE COLLAPSING. "IT WOULD THEN BE INCUMBENT UPON ME TO GIVE IT ONE LAST CHANCE BEFORE WE GO AHEAD ON OUR OWN WITH THE KISSINGER PLAN." HE THINKS THE AFRICANS MAY STILL COME ROUND TO A VARIATION OF THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS. MEANWHILE, HE PLANS TO STEP UP THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS -- HITTING THEM WHERE IT HURTS, WHICH PRESUMABLY MEANS MOZAMBIQUE.

YOU CAN USE FOREGOING WITH NO ATTRIBUTION TO SMITH OR
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TO RHODESIAN SOURCES. I WILL UPDATE BRIEFLY BY PHONE AFTER TODAY'S MEETING. END TEXT. CATTO
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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